

IPB Ready to give a solution to National Self-Sufficiency in Soybean

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Posted by admin on 20 September 2013

Indonesian nation is currently facing crucial issues related to the crisis of food, energy, environment, health and poverty. The food crisis will be a threat to the people of Indonesia if food production is far below the national needs. Dependence on imported food commodities often has an impact on scarcity and rising prices in the domestic market. Food needs should be a top priority because of the increasing population and climate change.

These problems can actually be solved through the development of agriculture. Therefore, IPB plays a prime role in mainstreaming agriculture. Its role and contribution in addressing the problems of the nation are realized by intensifying outcomes impact programs of IPB as multiplier effects that strengthen the national system of food and bio-energy production, create job opportunities, increase incomes, alleviate poverty, and improve environmental quality.

Wealth of biodiversity and local knowledge are still taken as the driving force of economic and business development. Given the existing economic inequality that is quite high at the moment, in addition to producing innovations, IPB, besides being a generator of innovations, continues to act as a bridge to innovations that can improve the efficiency and competitiveness of business on the one hand, but also ensure the equal distribution of welfare on the other. IPB will continue to produce graduates of a great passion in developing agriculture-based economy and society in the broadest sense.

"Mainstreaming agriculture is intended to put the agricultural sector into the planning system and the praxis of development inter-sectors to ensure that agriculture is integrated into the strategy of national development and plays the key to its success. This has become one of the main issues in the Strategic Plan of IPB for the future." said Dr. D. Iwan Riswandi, Director of Planning and Development of IPB.

One of the challenges to solve is the issue of soybean that always haunts the people of Indonesia. According to Deputy Minister of Agriculture of RI, the national need for soybean is 70 %, supplied from imports, especially from the U.S. Every year Indonesia needs 2.5 million tons of soybeans; 1.7 million tons of soybeans are still imported and the rest is from local farmers.

Indonesia is currently only capable of producing up to 800,000 tons of soybeans per year. The remaining 1.7 million tons must be imported from abroad such as the U.S.

One of IPB's innovations is in the research of soybeans. Efforts in soybean development in Indonesia have been made by IPB, through various studies by expanding the area of planting and seeds. To examine the possibility of expanding soybean growing land, studies have been done to use tidal land as additional acreage to grow soybeans.

This is expected to reduce the possible reduction of corn-growing land and other crops due to the expansion of soybean planting areas. Considering the potential dry land in the country as yet not optimally used, especially the acid soil, and continuing the previous studies, IPB has also developed a bacteria inoculants formula of root nodule to increase soybean production in

acidic dry land (pH 4.0).

By utilizing the inoculants, acid dry land can be planted with soybeans with high productivity and a reduced use of nitrogen fertilizer by 50% (Rachmania et al., 2011). Moreover, a strain of soybean varieties has also been developed; it is similar to the imported soybean favored by tempe producers. At this time there are five strains of soybean with higher productivity compared to Anjasmoro varieties with the high productivity (2.59 tons/ha) and large seeds. Of the five strains, two are recorded to have reached the productivity of 2.94 tons/ha (Suharsono, 2012).

Further, several alternatives have been offered IPB researchers, for example what was done by a researcher of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Dr. Ir. Arif Hartoyo, MSi (late). According to him, komak beans (*Lablab purpureus*, sweet L) have the potential use as an alternative to soybeans whose prices are often inflated, and the nutrient content is not much different and cheaper in price. Komak bean productivity is very high because this commodity is a tropical plant, while soybeans are subtropical.

To order that the results of university researches could be applied to society, a great deal of research development fund is required. Sometimes a college like IPB suffers a lack of adequate funding to conduct multi-location experiments of soybean varieties, so until now these results can not be applied on field.

These developments show that the development of soybean in Indonesia is still very potential. There needs to be cooperation of various stakeholders, involving farmers, private sectors, universities, government and industry, to be able to realize a strong soybean production system.

To find a joint solution to this problem, IPB cooperates with the Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs Association (HIPMI) through the Dialogue Forum to hold a discussion with the topic "Opportunities and Challenges of National Soybean Development " on Thursday (19/9) at HIPMI Center, Kuningan, Jakarta .

This forum invited the resource persons: Diah Maulida (Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs for Food), Dr. Munif Ghulamahdi (Soybean Researcher of IPB), Ir. Udhoro Kasih Anggoro (Director General of Food Crops), Maurits Daniel Rudolf Lalisang (President Director of PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk.) and a moderator, Afan Anugroho. (Mtd)